

March 15, 1976

PRESIDENT: I don't know how I could do that. We either close debate or we don't, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: I move the motion, Mr. President, to do so, but I indicated the understanding is that there'd only be the two people.... Senator Schmit would share his closing with the Speaker.

PRESIDENT: Well I'm sorry. I can't recognize that motion, Senator Warner. Now Senator Schmit....

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, that was not a motion on the last part. I indicated that was my understanding so that the members understood the only motion before the house is the motion to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Are there five seconds? I see five seconds. The question is shall debate now cease. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 7 nays.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Schmit, do you want to close on your motion?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President. I will allow Speaker Burbach at least five of my minutes to close if.... He can either take them now or he can take them after I speak. Then I'll close with my remarks and allow the Speaker to follow up if that's OK with the Chair. Is that satisfactory?

PRESIDENT: I beg your pardon?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is that satisfactory with the presiding officer that I give to the Speaker five minutes of my time?

PRESIDENT: Fine.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ... after my remarks. Fine. Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think it's been demonstrated here this morning the purpose for my original motion which I called for the question immediately after asking that the Speaker's order be overruled. We spent more than 30 minutes debating that question. Admittedly the issue involved is an important one. But even more important is the expeditious manner in which legislation in this body must be handled. I know that there are many people here who are as concerned as all of us are about the passage of a certain number of these bills. I happen to believe, in contrast to my good friend Senator Chambers, that LB 703 is a worthwhile bill which deserves consideration in this session of the Legislature.

I also happen to believe that those of us who are here for deliberate work should not be hamstrung by parliamentary efforts on the part of individuals who are capable, qualified, intelligent and very well understanding the rules and can use those rules to circumvent the natural process of the Legislature. I know that it is possible to tie up this body for an indefinite period. In fact, until the entire work of